

## Against the Grain

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# People Profile: Ramirose Ilene Attebury

Editor

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### The DTIC Experience

Since 1945, the **Defense Technical Information Center** and its predecessor agencies have served as the **Department of Defense (DoD)** institutional repository and secondary disseminator of scientific, technical, research and development information. Note the term “secondary disseminator.” **DTIC** is an aggregator and not the originator, owner or publisher of the information in our collection. It is possible, actually highly likely, that our reports are available from other sources such as the **DoD** office that sponsored the research or from the contractor or grantee that produced the report.

Starting in 1995, **DTIC** provided public online access to searchable bibliographic citations for **DoD Public Release Technical Reports** via its **Scientific and Technical Information Network (STINET)**.<sup>14</sup> Internet technology quickly evolved from “gophers” and **Wide Area Information Service (WAIS)** to **World Wide Web (WWW)** browsers and increasingly sophisticated database search engines, computer applications and tools. By 1998, **DTIC** was linking the bibliographic records to full-text. **STINET** content was part of the “deep Web” until **DTIC** implemented the **Open Archives Initiative (OAI) protocol**<sup>15</sup> in early 2006. **OAI** allows third party harvesters easy access to **DTIC**’s content in a variety of formats such as **COSATI**, **MARC**, **Dublin Core (DC)** and **HTML** using **XML** technology with links to the digital content using **DTIC**’s **Handle Service**.<sup>16</sup> Today **DTIC** offers free online access to more than 343,000 full-text documents and 1,109,000 citations. This number grows as **DTIC** adds new documents and digitizes its legacy collection.

**DTIC** was motivated to expose its content to search engines to provide citizens with free open access to the full-text of **DoD** public release research reports. In 2002, a techno-savvy entrepreneur saw a money-making opportunity to exploit the **DTIC** collection by harvesting the citations, making them searchable via **WWW** search engines and providing the full-text downloaded from **DTIC** for a fee. Now that the **DTIC** collection is **OAI** compliant, the commercial supplier still frequently ranks above **DTIC**. And sometimes the **DTIC** citation does not make the list at all.

At this writing, my **Google Web** search for the **DTIC** technical report “A Wavelet Analysis of Mining Explosions” ranks the commercial supplier first and a **Department of Energy Office of Scientific and Technical Information version (DOE OSTI)** second. The **DTIC** source citation is not listed nor does it appear when searching **Google Books** or **Google Scholar**. It does, however, rank first in **Google**’s **US Government Search**.

In another example, the results for a **Google Web** search for the **DTIC** title “Planetary Defense: Eliminating the Giggie Factor” authored by a **National Defense University** student, ranks a **US Air Force** source first and the com-

## against the grain people profile

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### Ramirose Attebury

**BORN & LIVED:** Enterprise, Oregon (born), lived in Lostine, OR; La Grande, OR; Rising City, NE; Charleston, SC; Columbia, SC; Ellensburg, WA.

**EARLY LIFE:** I lived in the country, raised sheep, and was active in 4-H for nine years.

**FAMILY:** Married; one stepson age eight; one on the way.

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** I am currently co-chairing my very first conference.

**IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE:** Working out; reading; road trips with my husband; theater.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** *When Christ and His Saints Slept* by Sharon Kay Penman.

**PHILOSOPHY:** A bit existentialist but with a slightly more positive outlook.

**MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** Surviving the first six months of my first job.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:** Be on track for making tenure.

**HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS:** I’ve never been a big fan of speculation. (Sorry, not the answer you’re looking for I’m sure.) 🐾



mercial supplier second. Once again **DTIC** is not listed. **Google Scholar**, however, ranks **DTIC** first above the commercial supplier, but does not list the **US Air Force** version. In **Google**’s **US Government Search**, **DTIC** ranks second after the **US Air Force**.

### Access vs. Use – What About Copyright?

The adage “consider the source” applies when seeking government information. There are and always have been resellers and repackagers of government information who have profited by knowing where and how to get it and then supplying it to others. This is perfectly legal and fills a need. What is not, is when the supplier does not credit the source or misrepresents themselves as the copyright owner and imposes restrictive terms and conditions of use. Even **Google Books** sometimes adds a copyright watermark to post-1923 public domain government works provided to it by third parties.<sup>17</sup>

No matter how or where one finds government information, once found we need to know what uses we can make of it. E-Government initiatives have overlooked the importance of administrative copyright management metadata in building the Government digital infrastructure. I believe this is attributable to a common misconception that all government information is in the public domain and may be used by anyone, anywhere, anytime without permission, license or royalty payment. The reality is that government information products

include a variety of copyrighted and public domain materials. Only government works prepared by officers and employees of the U.S. Government as part of their official duties are not protected by copyright in the U.S. (**17 USC §105**).<sup>18</sup> Contractors and grantees are not considered Government employees and may hold copyright in works they produce for the Government. The Government also publishes and distributes other third-party copyrighted materials with permission or under license.

Adding to the confusion is another generally-held misconception that a work is in the public domain if it does not have a copyright notice. Although once true, the **U.S. Copyright Law** was amended in 1989 to automatically grant copyright protection to original works of authorship once fixed in a discernable format (**17 USC §102**).<sup>19</sup> No formality, registration, or effort on the part of an author is required for a work to be protected. Use of a copyright notice is voluntary. Absent a notice, the burden is on the user to investigate the copyright status of the work.

Typically U.S. Government works have no statement that clearly identifies them as such. The lack of notice creates an element of uncertainty. It may factor into why the **Google Books** digitization program errs on the side of caution by adding a copyright watermark to U.S. Government works published after 1923 (Note: Works published before 1923 are in the public domain — an easy math computation!). Social networks such as **Wikipedia** that oper-

*continued on page 36*